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ACTION INL-01

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P 152058Z JUL 99  
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 TO DIRONDCP WASHDC PRIORITY  
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 DIA WASHDC  
 USCINCSO MIAMI FL  
 DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC  
 AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
 AMEMBASSY BRASILIA  
 AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

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 STATE FOR INL, WHA; SECDEF FOR DEP&S; DIA FOR DH-5  
 HHS FOR SAMSHA; DEA FOR OF, OFL; USCINCSO FOR J-3;  
 CIA FOR CNC; TREASURY FOR FINCEN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 7/8/09  
 TAGS: SNAR, MASS, PREL, MARR, KCRM, KJUS, VE  
 SUBJ: CHAVEZ PLEDGES COMMITMENT TO INCREASED COUNTER-NARCOTICS  
 COOPERATION, CALLS FOR MECHANISM TO ENHANCE COORDINATION.

REFTEL: CARACAS 2212 (NOTAL)

(U) CLASSIFIED BY: JOHN F. MAISTO, AMBASSADOR; AMERICAN EMBASSY  
 CARACAS: REASON 1.5 (D).

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: DAVID W COX  
 CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.4(B), 1.4(D)  
 DECLASSIFY AFTER: 14 JUL 2024  
 DATE/CASE ID: 13 SEP 2007 200503244

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SUMMARY:  
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1. (C) BRIEFINGS JULY 8 AND 9 BY A VISITING USG COUNTER-NARCOTICS TEAM LED BY ONDCP'S TOM UMBERG AND WHA ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROMERO FOR PRESIDENT CHAVEZ, THE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN RELATIONS, INTERIOR, DEFENSE AND OTHER KEY GOV ANTI-DRUG OFFICIALS, SAW THE VENEZUELAN SIDE REITERATING A COMMITMENT TO ENHANCE COOPERATION TO COMBAT NARCOTICS.

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A JOINT STATEMENT  
ISSUED AT THE END OF THE TWO DAYS OF MEETINGS NOTED AGREEMENT TO  
UPDATE EXISTING AGREEMENTS AND COOPERATION, TO STRENGTHEN  
TRAINING AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT AND TO ESTABLISH A JOINT  
COORDINATING MECHANISM.

END SUMMARY.

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PARTICIPANTS AND FORMAT:  
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2. (U) A USG TEAM HEADED BY ONDCP DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR SUPPLY REDUCTION THOMAS UMBERG GAVE TWO BRIEFINGS TO KEY GOV ANTI-DRUG OFFICIALS ON JULY 8, AND TO PRESIDENT CHAVEZ AND MOST OF THE SAME GROUP ON JULY 9. THE TEAM INCLUDED:

- AMBASSADOR,
- ACTING WHA ASSISTANT SECRETARY AMB. PETER ROMERO,
- SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATION (SAMSHA)  
DIRECTOR DR. NELBA CHVEZ,
- SENIOR NSC DIRECTOR FOR INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS ARTURO  
VALENZUELA (JULY 9 ONLY),
- DEPUTY ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL MARY LEE WARREN,
- DASD FOR DRUG ENF. POL. AND SUP. (DEP&S) ANA MARA SALAZAR,
- ONDCP CHIEF OF SOURCE COUNTRY SUPPORT BRADLEY HITTLE,
- EXEC. DIR. FOR U.S. INTERDICTION COORDINATOR CAPT. RALPH UTLEY,
- DOJ DEP. CHIEF OF NARCOTICS AND DANGEROUS DRUGS DIV. MORRIS  
PANNER,

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--SOUTHCOM DIRECTOR OF PLANS AND OPERATIONS COL. KEITH HUBER,  
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--DEP&S CDR. ROBERT WINNE,  
--DIA SENIOR ANALYST ADRIAN WOLFBERG,  
--SAMSA SPECIAL ASSISTANT LORINDA DANIEL,  
--CNC NARCOTCS PROD. AND FLOWS GROUP CHIEF VIRGINIA SUE BROMLE,  
--INL SOUTH AMERICA DIVISION CHIEF AL MATANO,  
--DEA STAFF COORDINATOR FOR INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS DIRK  
LAMAGNO.

FOR THE JULY 8 BRIEFING, HE VENEZUELAN DELEGATION WAS CHAIRED BY  
MINISTER OF INTERIOR IGNACIO ARAYA AND INCLUDED:

--FOREIN MINISTER JOSE VINCENTE RANGEL,  
--DEFENSE MINISTER RAUL SALAZAR,  
--ANTI-DRUG COMMISSION PRESIDENT MILDRED CAMERO,  
--ACTING NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE (DISIP) DIRECTOR ANDRES  
GONZALEZ, (DISIP DIRECTOR URDANETA ATTENDED ON JULY 9),  
--MILITARY INTELLIGENCE DIRECTOR GEN. OVIDIO POGGIOLI,  
--TECHNICAL JUDICIAL POLICE DIRECTOR CARLOS FERMIN,  
--CHIEF OF NAT'L GUARD ANTI-DRUG COM. GEN. MANUEL VERDE ACOSTA,  
--COMMANDER OF MILITARY JOINT FORCES GEN. GERMAN GOMEZ,  
--CHIEF OF NAVY OPS VICE ADMIRAL BERNABE CARRERO,  
--FOREIGN MINISTRY INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL DIR. FRANCISCO VELEZ,  
--FM ANTI DRUG DIVISION CHIEF BOANERGES SALAZAR,  
--FM NORTH AMERICAN AFFAIRS CHIEF MIRYAN PRADO,  
--COUNSELOR AT VENEZUELAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON JOSE MACHILLANDA  
AND VARIOUS ADVISORS. A SMALLER GROUP, INCLUDING ALL THE SENIOR

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
TO DIRONDCP WASHDC PRIORITY  
SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4695  
INFO SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY  
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DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHDC PRIORITY  
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DIA WASHDC  
USCINCSO MIAMI FL  
DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC  
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA  
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

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STATE FOR INL, WHA; SECDEF FOR DEP&S; DIA FOR DH-5  
HHS FOR SAMSHA; DEA FOR OF, OFL; USCINCSO FOR J-3;  
CIA FOR CNC; TREASURY FOR FINCEN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 7/8/09  
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SUBJ: CHAVEZ PLEDGES COMMITMENT TO INCREASED COUNTER-NARCOTICS  
COOPERATION, CALLS FOR MECHANISM TO ENHANCE COORDINATION.

OFFICIALS LISTED ABOVE, ATTENDED THE BRIEFING RECEIVED BY  
PRESIDENT CHAVEZ ON JULY 9.

3. (U) THE JULY U.S. BRIEFING, WHICH SAW FULL PARTICIPATION BY  
THE VENEZUELAN DELEGATION FOR JUST OVER THREE HOURS, USED SLIDES  
IN SPANISH AND INCLUDED TIME FOR QUESTIONS AFTER EACH SEGMENT.  
MINISTER OF DEFENSE SALAZAR PRESENTED A BRIEFING FOR THE GOV SIDE  
AT THE MID-POINT OF THE U.S. BRIEFING. A CONDENSED BRIEFING AND  
A RESPONSE BY PRESIDENT CHAVEZ LASTED JUST OVER AN 90 MINUTES ON  
JULY 9 AND WAS FOLLOWED BY A SMALLER MEETING FOR UMBERG,  
AMBASSADOR, ROMERO AND VALENZUELA WITH CHAVEZ (REFTEL).

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JULY 8 BRIEFING:  
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4. (C) FOREIGN MINISTER RANGEL OPENED THE FIRST SESSION BY  
STATING THAT THE GOV WAS FULLY COMMITTED TO FIGHTING DRUG  
TRAFFICKING. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THIS COMMITMENT WAS CENTRAL TO  
BOTH VENEZUELA'S DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL POLITICS AND SAID THE  
GOV WELCOMED A BRIEFING ON U.S. VIEWS ON COUNTER-NARCOTICS  
COOPERATION. ONDCP DEPUTY DIRECTOR UMBERG BEGAN THE U.S.

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PRESENTATION WITH A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF U.S. POLICY AND  
MULTILATERAL COUNTER-NARCOTICS COOPERATION, EMPHASIZING OUR  
SHARED COMMITMENT WITH VENEZUELA TO COMBAT DRUG TRAFFICKING, U.S.  
DEMAND REDUCTION EFFORTS, AND THE GROWING PROBLEM IN COLOMBIA.

5. (U) CNC'S BROMLEY, DIA'S WOLFBERG AND SAMSHA DIRECTOR CHAVEZ  
PROVIDED BRIEFINGS ON THE DRUG THREAT AND ON U.S. DRUG CONTROL  
POLICY. UMBERG SUMMARIZED THE PRESENTATION BY MAKING FOUR  
POINTS: ONE, THAT NARCO-TRAFFICKERS WERE EXTREMELY FLEXIBLE AND  
ADAPTED TO SPECIFIC ACTIONS AGAINST THEM BY CHANGING THEIR ROUTES  
AND METHODS; TWO, THAT COUNTRIES WITH INCREASED TRANSIT OF DRUGS  
EXPERIENCED INCREASED CONSUMPTION; THREE, THAT A SINGLE METHOD OF  
CONTROL WAS INSUFFICIENT TO CONTROL THE PROBLEM, AND FOUR, THAT  
COLOMBIA WAS NOW THE LARGEST SOURCE OF COCAINE AND HEROIN IN  
LATIN AMERICA AND THAT U.S. STRATEGY WAS TO TARGET THIS SOURCE.  
ELABORATING ON THE LAST POINT, UMBERG SAID THAT IF GOVERNMENTS  
COULD NOT TARGET THE FIELDS WHERE DRUGS WERE PRODUCED, THEN  
EFFORTS TO STOP TRAFFICKING HAD TO TAKE PLACE IN THE TRANSIT  
COUNTRIES, WHICH WERE THE NEXT STEP FOR THE DRUGS.

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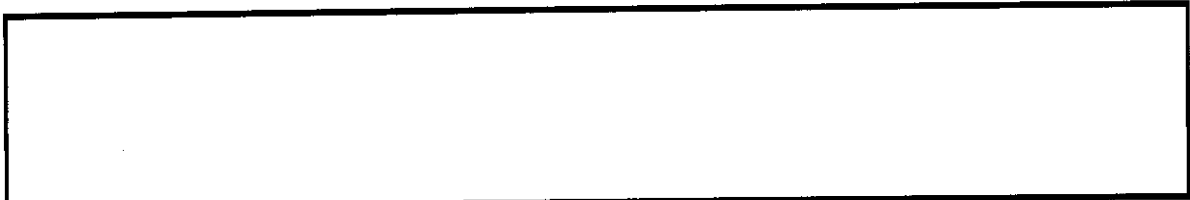
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13. (U) DASD SALAZA PROVIDED THE U.S. INTERDICTION SEGMENT OF THE BRIEFING AND EMPHASIZED CHANGES IN U.S. STRATEGY TO IMPROVE INTERDICTION EFFORTS IN LIGHT OF THE U.S. DEPARTURE FROM PANAMA. SHE DISCUSSED U.S. ASSETS USED TO TRACK DRUG FLIGHTS AND NOTED THAT THE FORWARD OPERATING LOCATIONS WERE DESIGNED TO USE EXISTING AIRPORTS TO SUPPORT SMALL NUMBERS OF COUNTER-DRUG AIRCRAFT. SHE EMPHASIZED INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPATION IN THE FOLS AND BRIEFED ON HOST NATION RIDERS ON U.S. AIRCRAFT. SHE ALSO DISCUSSED OVERFLIGHTS, MAKING A DISTINCTION BETWEEN OVERFLIGHTS

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TO SUPPORT COUNTER-DRUG REQUIREMENTS AND THE VERY DIFFERENT CASE  
OF HOT PURSUIT OF INDIVIDUAL SUSPECT AIRCRAFT.

14.(U) AMBASSADOR ROMERO ADDED THAT THE MOST IMPORTANT TYPE OF  
COUNTER-NARCOTICS COOPERATION WAS THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION.  
HE SAID THAT AGREEMENTS HAD STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES BUT THE  
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IMPORTANT NEED WAS TO ACCELERATE COOPERATION.

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18.(U) INL'S MATANO AND DEPUTY ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL MARY  
LEE WARREN BRIEFED ON U.S. SUPPORT PROGRAMS AND ON LAW  
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ENFORCEMENT COOPERATION. MATANO'S BRIEFING FOCUSED ON  
SUPPORTING HOST COUNTRY STRATEGIES AND ADDRESSED ERADICATION,  
ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT AND LAW ENFORCEMENT SUPPORT PROGRAMS.  
WARREN COVERED LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTION TO COMBAT DRUGS ARRIVING IN  
THE U.S., VENEZUELA'S ADOPTION OF A NEW PENAL CODE, CHEMICAL  
CONTROL, AND EXTRADITION (INCLUDING THE EXTRADITION OF  
NATIONALS). SHE ALSO PRESSED FOR RATIFICATION BY VENEZUELA OF

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THE MUTUAL LEGAL ASSISTANCE TREATY SIGNED IN 1997. WARREN DISCUSSED LAW ENFORCEMENT MEASURES TO COMBAT NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING AND SAID THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE WAS PREPARING AN ADDITIONAL BRIEFING BY EXPERTS ON THE CORRUPTION ISSUE WHICH WOULD BE OFFERED IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS.

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AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

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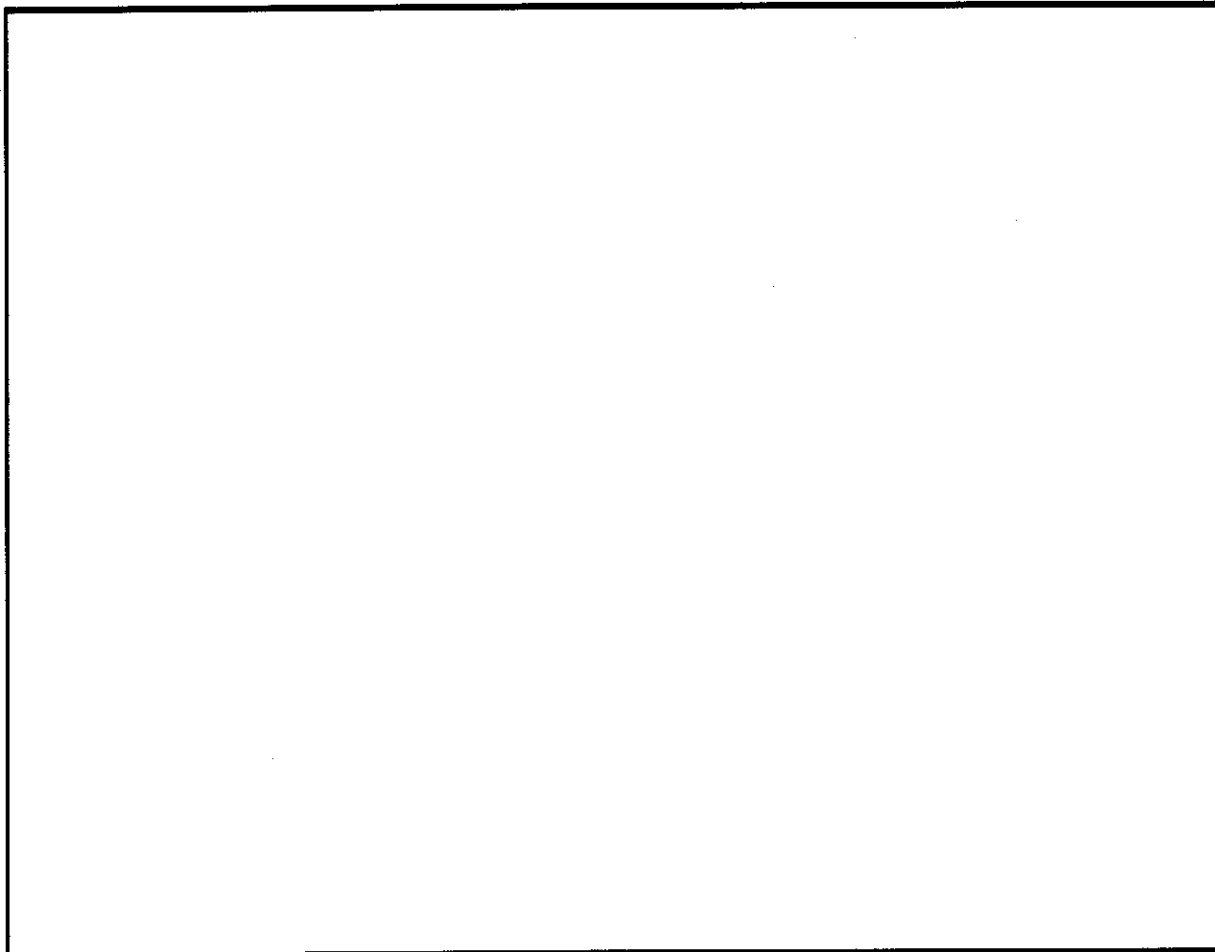
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HHS FOR SAMSHA; DEA FOR OF, OFL; USCINCSO FOR J-3;  
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JULY 9 BRIEFING FOR PRESIDENT CHAVEZ:  
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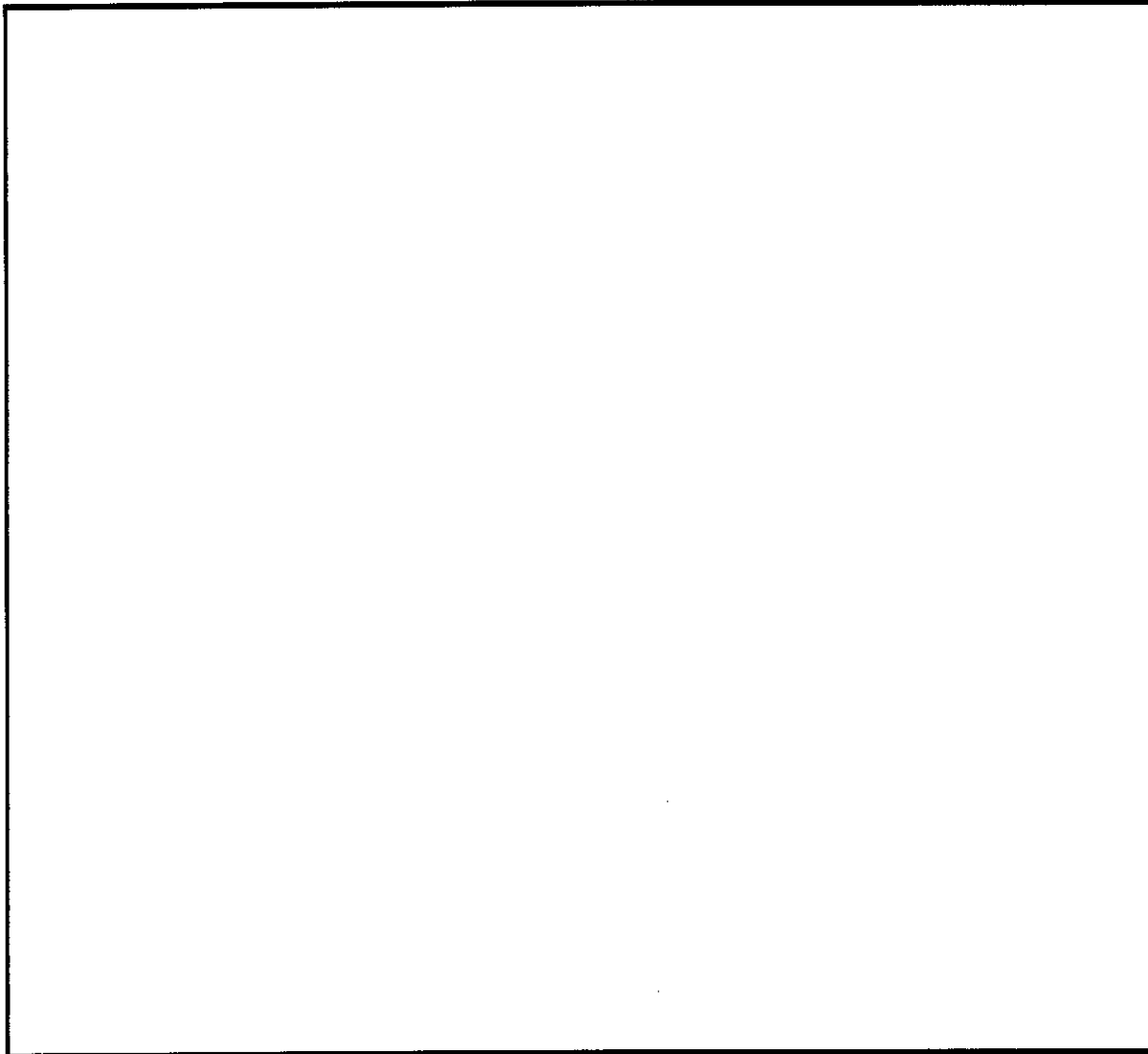
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28. (U) THIS CABLE CLEARED BY DELEGATION LEADER TOM UMBERG.

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